



MARTLEY RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

and

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

for the

Year 1971.

L. Spencer Stephens,
Medical Officer of Health.

B.E. Roberts,
Chief Public Health Inspector.

MARTLEY RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

1971 - 1972

Chairman of the Council	-	Mr. G.H. Heaton
Vice Chairman of the Council	-	Mr. J. Moore

Members of the Public Health Committee

Mr. E.M. Badger	-	Chairman
Mr. R. Colwill	-	Vice-Chairman
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Mrs. R. Beard		Mr. J.C. Guise
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Group Capt. A.R. Combe		Mr. F. Portman
Rev. O. Davies		Mr. K.E.J. Wainwright
Mr. W.A.M. Edwards		Mr. C.M. White

Public Health Staff of the Authority

L. Spencer Stephens, M.B., Ch.B., D.R.C.O.G., D.P.H.,
Medical Officer of Health.

B.E. Roberts, M.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H.,
Chief Public Health Inspector.

J.R. Perry, M.A.P.H.I.,
Additional Public Health Inspector.

J.B. Vernon, L.M.R.S.H.,
Housing Manager.

Miss P.A. Underhill, (commenced duties 22/11/71)
Shorthand Typist and Clerk.

Mrs. J.M. Simmonds, (resigned 31/7/71)
Shorthand Typist and Clerk.

Bedwardine House,

Rushwick,

Worcester.

Telephone: Worcester 21762.

June, 1972.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have much pleasure in presenting my seventeenth Annual Report on the health of the District for the year ended 31st December, 1971.

The Statistics under Section A on Births, Deaths and Infectious Disease are generally satisfactory. The number of cases of measles (195) is not exceptional, but should be showing some reduction now that Measles Vaccine is available. It is a safe Vaccine thoroughly recommended by the Department of Health and I hope it will gain universal acceptance by the parents of pre-school children.

The one outbreak of importance was due to Salmonella Food Poisoning from the consumption of turkey and involved eighty-four persons to a varying degree. Strangely enough not a single case was resident in the district, the party coming from an Industrial concern in Birmingham, and notifications being registered with a number of other Local Authorities. Ours was the responsibility for investigation however, which highlighted the problems related to Poultry processing and storage (see page 10 - Chief Public Health Inspectors Report), and shows that thorough cooking is not always the answer.

In the Autumn I vaccinated a number of the Staff against Influenza. I hope that the Council will continue to authorise this small Expenditure annually, as a form of Insurance against high rates of Sickness absence, and that those members who opted out will see the sense of receiving protection in the future.

It is with great regret that I record at this time the departure of Mr. B. Roberts, our Chief Public Health Inspector who had been with us for less than two years. He had worked hard at re-organising the department and also gained control of the Housing Management which has benefitted from being linked to Public Health, and I feel sure is the right Management Structure for the future.

Some excellent work was carried out on Food Hygiene and Improvement Grants, and I would also like to express my gratitude to Mr. Perry (Additional Public Health Inspector) for his continuing labours in the field of Housing and Slum Clearance which, at times, seems to bear little reward. However, with a certain amount of Council House building now in hand, I hope there will be more evident changes in the future.

All sections of Local Government are beginning to feel the effect of impending re-organisation. I am sure I am not alone in worrying about the future but am convinced that it is the older members of Staff who will feel the impact most. After twenty-three years in Local Government, one is not going to take kindly to a transfer to the National Health Service, even if one knows in ones heart that it is the right place for the Medical Profession. What concerns me is the breakdown

of established teams who have worked together for many years almost like family groups. The State is depersonalising the individual, making him a mere cog in a machine, and this is going to operate for many years to the detriment of the General Public. Once the operation is over there must be stabilising influences conducive to re-established teamwork and interdepartmental liason and it is to be hoped that all Government Departments realise this.

The Clerk of the Council (Mr. R. Hodges) retired on 1st May, 1972, and I would like to record my appreciation of his help and co-operation and also wish his successor (Mr. P. Santry) all good wishes for the future.

I remain Mr. Chairman,

Your obedient servant,

L. Spencer Stephens

Medical Officer of Health.



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SECTION A

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

The Rural District of Martley comprising 52,825 acres, is predominantly agricultural in character and lies to the west of the City of Worcester. The River Teme runs through the district dividing it into two parts. The chief industry is agriculture and the district is one of the most important fruit and hop growing areas in the country.

Area in acres	52,825
Number of dwellinghouses (31st March, 1971) according to Rate Books	4,633
Registrar General's estimate of resident population (mid 1971)	13,100
(mid 1970)	(13,630)

<u>Live Births</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	93	86	179
Illegitimate	3	3	6
Illegitimate live births per cent of total live births			3%
Standardised birth rate per 1,000 estimated population			14.8
Rate for England and Wales			16.0

<u>Still Births</u>			
Legitimate	-	2	2
Illegitimate	-	-	-
Rate per 1,000 total live and still births			11
Rate for England and Wales			12

<u>Deaths</u>			
From all causes	70	47	117
Standardised death rate per 1,000 estimated population			9.2
Rate for England and Wales			11.6

<u>Deaths of Infants Under 1 year of Age</u>			
Legitimate	1	-	1
Illegitimate	-	-	-
Legitimate infant deaths per 1,000 legitimate live births			6
Illegitimate infant deaths per 1,000 illegitimate live births			Nil
Infantile Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births			5
Rate for England and Wales			18

<u>Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks of age</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	1	-	1
Illegitimate	-	-	-
Neonatal Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births			5
Rate for England and Wales.. .. .			12

Perinatal Deaths (Still births and deaths in first week)

Perinatal Mortality per 1,000 total births	16
Rate for England and Wales.. .. .	22
Maternal deaths	Nil
Maternal Mortality	Nil

1971 - Causes of Death - Registrar General Returns
(International "B" Classification - 50 main causes)

								<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>
B6(2)	Other Tuberculosis							-	1
B17	Syphilis and its Sequelae							1	-
B19(1)	Malignant Neoplasm, Buccal Cavity, Etc							1	2
B19(2)	Malignant Neoplasm, Oesophagus							2	-
B19(3)	Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach							2	1
B19(4)	Malignant Neoplasm, Intestine.. .. .							1	1
B19(6)	Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus.. .. .							7	2
B19(7)	Malignant Neoplasm, Breast							-	4
B19(10)	Leukaemia.. .. .							2	-
B19(11)	Other Malignant Neoplasms							5	2
B21	Diabetes Mellitus							-	1
B24	Meningitis							1	-
B46(5)	Other Diseases of Nervous System							2	2
B26	Chronic Rheumatic Heart Disease							-	1
B27	Hypertensive Disease							3	4
B28	Ischaemic Heart Disease							14	5
B29	Other forms of Heart Disease							1	2
B30	Cerebrovascular Disease							4	7
B46(6)	Other Diseases of Circulatory System							8	4
B32	Pneumonia.. .. .							2	1
B33(1)	Bronchitis and Emphysema.. .. .							4	1
B46(7)	Other Diseases of Respiratory System							-	1
B37	Cirrhosis of Liver							1	-
B46(8)	Other Diseases of Digestive System.. .. .							1	3
B46(9)	Other Diseases, Genito-Urinary System							4	1
B46(11)	Diseases of Muscul-Skeletal System.. .. .							4	1
BE47	Motor Vehicle Accidents							1	-
BE48	All Other Accidents.. .. .							2	-
<u>TOTAL ALL CAUSES</u>								<u>70</u>	<u>47</u>

NOTIFICATIONS OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE 1971

	Under 5	5+	10+	15+	25+	45+	65+	Total*
1. Measles	83	85	15	8	4	-	-	(97) 195
2. Scarlet Fever	3	1	1	-	-	-	-	(3) 5
3. Whooping Cough	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	(4) 3
4. Food Poisoning	-	-	-	1	-	2	1	(1) 4
5. Infective Jaundice	-	2	-	3	5	-	-	(4) 10
6. Dysentery	-	19	7	3	5	1	-	(1) 35
7. Meningitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	(1) -

* figures in brackets relate to the previous year.

The four cases of Food Poisoning above were all from one family outbreak *Salmonella* type - marium.

TUBERCULOSIS

It will be seen that two non-pulmonary cases (joint and renal), were added during 1971, and it was possible to remove five pulmonary cases from the register. From the table below it will be seen that the number of cases on the register has fallen considerably over the last ten years.

Register at 31st December 1971

Year	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Annual Totals
	M	F	M	F	
1962	26	32	2	5	65
1963	17	22	2	5	46
1964	14	21	1	1	37
1965	14	16	1	2	33
1966	15	15	1	3	35
1967	15	15	2	2	34
1968	14	15	2	3	34
1969	10	15	2	3	30
1970	9	14	1	1	25
1971	8	10	1	3	23

SECTION B

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

1. County Health Services

The following services are provided by the County Council in accordance with Part III of the National Health Service Act 1946.

Care of Mothers and Young Children (Section 22)

The district is served by the following clinics:-

Ante-Natal Clinics

Lucy Baldwin Maternity Hospital, Stourport.

Open every Tuesday in the month at 1.30 p.m.

Coventry Street, Kidderminster.

Open every Monday in the month at 2.00 p.m.

Cases in the Worcester Area are referred to hospital by their own doctor if necessary.

Child Health Centres

Parish Hall, Hallow.

Open on the second and fourth Thursday in the month at 2.00 p.m.

Memorial Hall, Broadheath.

Open on the first and third Thursday in the month at 2.00 p.m.

Village Hall, Knightwick Road, Martley.

Open on second Wednesday in the month at 2.00 p.m.

Village Hall, Alfrick.

Open on the third Friday in the month at 2.30 p.m.

Memorial Hall, Leigh.

Open on the second Thursday in the month at 2.30 p.m.

Village Hall, Great Witley.

Open on the fourth Tuesday in the month at 2.00 p.m.

Village Hall, Shrawley.

Open on the first Tuesday in the month at 2.15 p.m.

Parish Room, Holt.

Open on the first Tuesday in the month at 3.30 p.m.

Village Hall, Rushwick.

Open on the first Tuesday in the month at 2.00 p.m.

Club Room, Suckley.

Open on the second Tuesday in the month at 2.00 p.m.

Midwifery (Section 23)

The services of the county midwife are available without charge to care for mothers during pregnancy, confinement and for a period of ten days afterwards. She should be booked as early as possible in order to receive adequate instructions for the confinement. Visits are paid to the home and examinations carried out monthly in co-operation with the doctor, who will arrange hospital consultations if necessary. Free dental treatment is available during this period and may be arranged through the County Dental Officer.

Health Visiting and Home Nursing (Sections 24 and 25)

After the first ten days the Health Visitor normally takes over the responsibility for the care of the baby from the midwife. She is a trained nurse who has received additional instruction in child care, maintenance of health and the prevention of disease, and is able to offer guidance to the mother until the child goes to school. The health visitor also acts as school nurse and being an experienced medico-social worker, is able to give advice to the adult members of the family on any personal problems related to physical or mental ill health.

The District Nurse is available to act on the instructions of the General Practitioner or hospital when persons are discharged from hospital. She carries out injection procedures and the general nursing of the sick or elderly at home. In most rural districts the duties of the District Nurse, Midwife and Health Visitor are combined. This is so in the Martley Rural District where there are six full-time and one part-time worker as follows:-

<u>Nurses</u>	<u>Telephone No.</u>	<u>Area</u>
Miss Parsons, Little Cob House, Broadwas-on-Teme, Nr. Worcester.	Wichenford 372	Martley, Clifton, Shelsleys, part Lower Sapey, Brickyard Cottages, Wichenford.
Miss J. Curnow, Berrylands Bungalow, Leigh.	Leigh Sinton 320	Leigh, Bransford, Alfrick, Leigh Sinton, Rushwick.
Miss H. Chambers, Berrylands Bungalow, Leigh.	Leigh Sinton 320	Knightwick, Broadwas, Doddenham, Lulsley, Suckley.
Mrs. R.K. Slingsby, Cherry Cottage, Greenhill Lane, Hallow, Nr. Worcester.	Hallow 235	Hallow, Broadheath, Cotheridge, Crown East, Wichenford, Sinton Green, Grimley Village.
Miss D.M. Jones, Nurses House, Hillhampton, Shrawley, Nr. Worcester.	Gt. Witley 386	Holt, Hillhampton, Shrawley, Gt. Witley, Little Witley, Abberley.

<u>Nurses</u>	<u>Telephone No.</u>	<u>Area</u>
Miss J.M. Whitehead, Nurses House, Hillhampton, Shrawley, Nr. Worcester.	Gt. Witley 386	Area Relief Nurse (full-time)

N.B. Astley and Dunley are covered by Stourport Nurses (G.P. attachment).

Vaccination and Immunisation (Section 26)

Vaccination and immunisation proceedings are carried out, free of charge, by the patient's own doctor and at the County Council clinics. It is now standard procedure to offer triple immunisation against diphtheria, whooping cough and tetanus at 6 - 12 months old and a booster dose at five years old. Poliomyelitis vaccination is best administered as a single dose at 15 months. The Department of Health and Social Security have now recommended against routine Smallpox Vaccination except in emergency situations and for travel abroad for which an International Certificate is issued.

The following inoculations were completed during the year (figures in brackets relate to the previous year).

(i) Diphtheria Immunisation

No. of children who completed a primary course	145 (164)
No. of children receiving a reinforcing dose	137 (220)

(ii) Tetanus Immunisation

No. of children who completed a primary course	150 (169)
No. of children receiving a reinforcing dose	159 (266)

(iii) Whooping Cough Immunisation

No. of children who completed a primary course	131 (159)
It is not considered necessary to give reinforcing doses.	

(iv) Measles Vaccination

No. of children who completed a primary course	140 (171)
Reinforcing doses should not be necessary.	

(v) Poliomyelitis Vaccination

No. of children who completed a primary course	143 (183)
No. of children receiving a reinforcing dose	143 (218)

(vi) Smallpox Vaccination

No. of persons receiving primary vaccination	92 (148)
No. of persons re-vaccinated	22 (21)

(vii) B.C.G. Vaccination

Worcestershire County Council operate a scheme for the preventive inoculation of all children leaving school. This is a valuable protective measure against tuberculosis. Details for the whole County are available in the County Medical Officer's Annual Report.

Other Services

Details of other services provided by the County Health Department are also to be found in the County Medical Officer's Report viz:-

Ambulances (Section 27)
Prevention Care and After Care (Section 28)
Health Education
Geriatrics
School Health and School Dental Services
(Education Act 1944)

The County Analyst issues a separate report to the County Council.

2. Hospital Services

These services are administered by the Birmingham Hospital Board (Mid or South Worcestershire Hospital Management Committee).

- (a) General Hospitals with casualty departments are situated at Worcester, Kidderminster and Tenbury.
- (b) Maternity beds are available at Worcester and Stourport.
- (c) Infectious diseases are usually admitted to Newtown Isolation Hospital, Worcester, but may be admitted to one of the Birmingham Hospitals.
- (d) The elderly and chronic sick are accommodated at Shrub Hill, Worcester, Avonside, Evesham and Blakebrook, Kidderminster.
- (e) Psychiatric hospitals for mental disorders are available at Powick, Worcester or Barnsley Hall, Bromsgrove.
- (f) Laboratories are available at all General Hospitals but at Worcester Royal Infirmary a branch of the Public Health Laboratory Service has been established. This organisation, with reference laboratories in London and elsewhere, is designed to assist local authorities in their investigation of outbreaks of communicable disease.
- (g) Venereal diseases are diagnosed and treated at a special out-patient department of Worcester Royal Infirmary adjacent to the Chest Clinic. Sessions are held from 5-7 p.m. on Mondays for women, and 5-7 p.m. on Tuesdays for men. No appointment is necessary and treatment is strictly confidential.

3. General Medical Services

There are three General Practitioners resident in the district. Many others visit their patients from Worcester, Stourport and Malvern. It is impossible to compile a suitable list, therefore, but the Worcestershire Executive Council (County) do publish one and this is normally available at any General Post Office. The services of dentists, opticians and pharmacists also come under the control of the Executive Council to whom enquiries should be made.

4. Social Services

On 1st April, 1971, the new Social Services Departments came into existence under the control of the County Director - Miss N. Riley. The Social Services Act resulted from the Seeborn Report and produced an amalgamation of the Welfare, Childrens and Mental Health Departments with certain other functions transferred from the Health (e.g. Home Helps and Child Minders). Four Area Offices were opened on the appointed day, Martley Rural District being placed under the control of the Southern Area. This is rather unfortunate as the County Nursing Services were also divisionalised, Martley Rural District being placed in Area 3 with Kidderminster, which hardly results in effective liason between those Departments and the District Authority. However, it is obvious that with the re-organisation of Local Government and the Unification of the National Health Service in two years time all three services will have to be re-grouped.

SECTION C

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

1. Water Supply

A comprehensive water scheme had been completed throughout the district prior to the North West Worcestershire Water Board becoming statutory undertakers in 1962. Since that date steady progress has been made with water connections and a number of small extensions have been carried out. Mains water is available in all parishes and overall approximately 80% of domestic properties are connected. The remaining properties are supplied by shallow wells the majority of which produce water which is bacteriologically suspect. Further details are found on page 6 of the Chief Public Health Inspectors' Report.

The Astley boreholes, however, provide excellent water which, although rather hard, is pure. The water has no plumb-solvent action and the fluoride content is low (0.12 p.p.m.) So far the water has not been fluoridated. Chemical and Bacteriological Analysis is shown below:-

Mains Supply No. 1 Pumping Station, Astley.

Physical Characters

Colour	-	None	
Odour	-	None	pH 7.6
Deposit	-	None	

Chemical Examination (Results expressed in parts per million)

Solids in solution (dried at 180°C)	..	..	..	..	..	300
Solids in solution (after ignition)	..	..	..	..	..	205
Chlorine Present as Chloride	..	..	..	..	..	30
Hardness Non-carbonate as CaCO ₃	..	..	..	..	..	104
Hardness Carbonate	"	"	..	..	..	160
Hardness Total	"	"	..	..	..	264
Ammonical Nitrogen	..	..	..	..	..	Trace
Albuminoid Nitrogen	..	..	..	..	..	Trace
Nitrate Nitrogen	..	..	..	..	..	7.7
Nitrite Nitrogen	..	..	..	..	..	Trace
Permanganate Value (4 Hours at 27°C)	..	..	..	..	..	0.10
Toxic Metals	..	..	..	..	..	None detected
Free Carbon Dioxide	..	..	..	..	..	6
Calcium as Ca.	..	..	..	..	..	57
pH saturated with calcium carbonate at 20°C =	..	..	..	..	..	7.65
Saturation Index = 7.60 - 7.65 =	..	..	..	..	..	-0.05

Bacteriological Examination

Number of colonies developing upon agar

(a) in two days at 37°C	..	..	..	..	..	0 per one
(b) in three days at 22°C	..	..	..	..	..	0 per one
Probable number of coliform bacilli	..	..	..	..	..	0 per 100
Probable number of faecal coli	..	..	..	..	..	0 per 100

Opinion - The chemical condition of the sample is satisfactory. The saturation index is that of a water with little or no corrosive tendency. The water is hard.

2. Sewerage and Sewage Disposal

Difficulties were encountered during the year with the various major Sewerage and Sewage Disposal schemes in hand due to restricted Government Finance, delays in Ministerial approval and prolonged negotiations with Worcester City who had offered their help. Not a great deal of work was in evidence therefore, until the end of 1971.

Fortunately the Bransford and Leigh Sinton (Powick and Malvern) scheme had been completed, an Official opening ceremony being held at the new Powick Sewage works in November, 1970. This has enabled a number of connections to be made in the villages of Bransford and Leigh Sinton.

At Clifton-on-Teme, a considerable number of new dwellings had been built which made the proposed Passveer Ditch Scheme urgent. Fortunately an allocation financially was made in October, 1971 by the Worcestershire County Council from their locally allocated quota which enabled the scheme to be drawn up and approved for commencement on 1st January, 1972.

Martley and Wichenford sewerage and sewage disposal scheme also involving Passveer Ditch treatment was held up by the Ministry, but finally given approval, the work now being underway.

The Broadheath Sewage works is now in the process of being abandoned, Worcester City having agreed in 1970 to accept sewage into their mains from this Area. The 8"D pumping Main to the City boundary was completed and the changeover made in March, 1972; but agreement has not been finalised concerning the treatment of septic sludge at Broadheath. It has been agreed in principle (as recommended by the Ministry Inspector) that the Broadwas and Cotheridge sewers should also be connected at Broadheath and the Sewage passed to Worcester City. The charges to be levied will be based on the current Sewage Rate for the City in relation to the Rateable Value of the properties concerned.

Unfortunately, there are continued delays in setting up a Cesspool Emptying Service which is long overdue. (see Chief Public Health Inspectors' Report.)

3. Refuse Collection and Disposal

There were no basic changes in the Refuse Collection Service during the year, but undoubtedly improvements resulted from the service being brought under Radio Control, as complaints were dealt with more promptly. The three Refuse Tips at present in use are at Grimley, Martley Hillside and Yarhampton. These are under the control of the Surveyor (Mr. M.J. Jakeways) who has been negotiating recently for the renewal of the Planning Approval on the Grimley Site and for a new site at Knightwick.

SECTION D

HOUSING AND SLUM CLEARANCE

The decision to redesignate Mr. B. Roberts as Chief Public Health Inspector and Housing Officer was particularly helpful in this sphere. It enables Mr. Vernon (Assistant Housing Manager) to work more closely with the Public Health Inspectors on problems related to health and substandard housing. With House lettings placed in Zones and a Points Scheme in operation for both Adult Families and the Elderly it has been possible to give priority to such items as poor structure, damp, lack of amenities, medical conditions and the inability to climb stairs. Although no more properties have been available for re-letting than in the past this has provided a sound basis for the future in assessing need and it is hoped that more Slum Clearance work will eventually be possible.

The Housing Committee looked carefully at the needs of the District during the year and found it to be considerable. As a result work has gone ahead rapidly for the construction of twenty-nine dwellings at Holt, (2, 3 and 4 bedroomed houses) and a Houses for Sale scheme at Bransford (thirty-four dwellings) adjacent to which will be an Elderly Persons Block with a Warden (thirty units). Category II Units are also being considered at the Heath, Hallow and Clifton-on-Teme. Private Building should also be encouraged which depends on Planning Permissions in the various Villages where infilling is permitted and Village Studies are to be carried out by the County Planning Department.

Improvement Grants - continued to occupy a large proportion of Mr. Perry's time. It is interesting to note that 551 Discretionary Grants have been dealt with since this concept came into being under the Housing Act 1949 (i.e. in twenty-one years) and also 252 Standard Grants have been approved (see Chief Public Health Inspectors' Report - page 4).

However, it is not at all clear what impact this is having on the total Housing Stock of the District. In 1947 (after the Rural Housing Survey was initiated) there were 463 unfit houses in the District and I estimate that 200 have been demolished nevertheless Mr. Roberts' Survey (p.5) seems to indicate that there are still 300 unfit houses in the District to be dealt with. It would appear that we are hardly keeping pace with the process of decay, which has been occurring in many properties (which may be anything from 60-300 years old) despite a vigorous Improvement Grant campaign which has been encouraged by the Government Policy for many years.

REPORT OF THE

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

B. E. Roberts,
M.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH
INSPECTOR (MR. B.E. ROBERTS, M.A.P.H.I.,
M.R.S.H.)

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

This is my second and final annual report, and indeed, you will be reading it after my departure from your employment.

The Public Health Department is now equipped, accommodated and geared for efficiently dealing with all aspects of environmental health with the closely associated administration of the Council owned housing.

During the year more time was devoted to priorities such as food hygiene, improvement grants (which have almost doubled since last year) housing administration and the general survey of the private housing stock has continued.

The imminent changes in local government will result in the reduction of functions by district authorities; particularly in engineering, with the passing of main drainage and highway responsibilities to the new county authorities. Mr. Peter Walker, in introducing the second reading of the Local Government Bill stated that the environmental health functions are to remain with the district councils and he named the Public Health Inspector as being the officer to administer these services. It is therefore, very pleasing to know that my successor can look forward to a rewarding and wide range of duties in the new authority which will be constituted and that in the matters which are of greatest local significance to rate payers the local interest will be maintained.

During the year Mr. Vernon and Miss Underhill joined the staff of the department and have proved to be willing and dependable colleagues in dealing with the tasks, sometimes onerous or additional to their terms of employment. To them and Mr. Perry, whose work load has increased considerably I express my thanks.

In conclusion I wish to thank Mr. Badger and Mr. Fairhurst for their devoted interest and keen attention to the activities of the department. Their attitude is such that they inspire a sense of purpose and have assisted job satisfaction by allowing the detailed administration to be carried out by their officers within the general framework of the Councils policy.

It would be a gross oversight not to mention the imminent passing of Medical Officers of Health from local government to the Area Health Boards.

Since the Appointment of the first Medical Officer of Health in Liverpool in 1847 these officers have been amongst the pillars of Local Government. There has, in more recent years, been a changing emphasis of their role within local Government but it has been my experience, in a number of authorities, that in addition to their basic statutory duties, they have provided a valuable additional viewpoint and advice on many other topics.

I should like to thank Dr. Stephens for his interest, co-operation and assistance during the past two years.

B.E. ROBERTS,
Chief Public Health Inspector.

April, 1972.

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The Library is a non-profit corporation, organized for the purpose of providing a public library for the City of New York. It was founded in 1854, and has since that time been the largest and most complete library in the City. The Library is open to all, and its collections are free to all. The Library is a place of learning and of research, and it is a place where the mind can be free.

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SUMMARY OF INSPECTIONS CARRIED OUT DURING 1971

	<u>1970</u>	<u>1971</u>
Total inspections recorded (not including rodent control or water samples)	1,380	1,579

General Sanitation

Sewage scheme survey	130	-
Miscellaneous visits re: complaints (including housing)	68	106
Visits re: drainage, sewerage, watercourses and streams	83	112
Water supplies	77	52
Water samples taken - private	<u>1970</u> 29	<u>1971</u> 48
public	20	41
chemical	4	4
Agriculture (Safety, Health and Welfare Provisions) Act	-	4
Factories Acts	5	28
Visits re: verminous persons	1	1
Premises fumigated	1	1
Public cleansing - tips	9	18
- premises	6	5
Clean Air Act	2	2
Animal Boarding Establishments Act	4	21
Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act	13	33
Noise Abatement Act	4	21
Swimming Baths	-	2
Mortuary	3	2
Prevention of Damage by Pests Act - Agricultural	225	120
- Non-agricultural	206	249
Hop pickers accommodation	3	3

Inspection of Food and Food Premises

Complaints	2	5
Butchers Shops	4	13
Ice cream retailers	8	4
Cafes, Canteens etc.	10	28
Bakery	-	1
Food Vehicles	5	7
Licensed Premises (Public Houses etc.)	14	72
Grocers	37	43

Housing

Complaints of disrepair	-	21
Rent Acts	-	2

<u>Housing continued</u>	<u>1970</u>	<u>1971</u>
Housing Surveys	258	187
Mortgage Surveys	-	5
Inspections for re-housing	23	55
Improvement Grants - Discretionary	288	426
- Standard	157	82
(including building regulations inspections)		
Individual Unfit	29	30
Moveable Dwellings (Caravans)	27	19
Dangerous Structures (Housing)	2	6
Licensed Caravan Sites	-	30
Qualification Certificates	-	10
<u>Infectious Diseases</u>		
Visits and enquiries	8	18
Other Visits (including accompanied visits and non-specified appointments.)	99	104

1. HOUSING - Figures in brackets relate to 1970.

The total number of dwellings in the Rural District at the end of 1971 was 4,641 including 620 agricultural dwellings and 52 caravans. Of the permanent dwellings 688 were owned by the Council and this figure includes 284 built before 1945.

Provision of Housing Accommodation

Number of Council Houses started or completed during 1971	Nil	(Nil)
Number of Private Houses completed during 1971	60	(51)
Number of Private Houses under construction 31.12.1971	92	(63)

Unfit Dwellings

Inspections during 1971

Dwellings inspected for fitness	332	(325)
Dwellings found to be unfit	54	(41)

Proceedings under Part II of the Housing Act, 1957.

Dwellings in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	14	(8)
Dwellings demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	4	(1)
Dwellings in respect of which Closing Orders were made	3	(2)
Dwellings in respect of which undertakings not to re-let were accepted	3	(4)
Dwellings in respect of which Demolition or Closing Orders were made:-		

2 Cottage, Station Road, Bransford.
29 Catterbutts, Astley.
The Bungalow, Pewcroft Farm, Suckley.
1 Knoll Cottages, Broadheath.
2 Knoll Cottages, Broadheath.
1 Simberton Cottage, Monkwood Green, Grimley.
Simberton House, Monkwood Green, Grimley.
The Wayside, Martley.
Mill House, Broadwas-on-Teme.
The Bungalow, Sinton Green, Grimley.
3 Upperwick Cottages, Rushwick.
Oakhall Cottage, Sinton Green, Grimley.
112 Berrow Green, Martley.
Park Cottage, Whitbourne, Suckley.
4 Strand Cottages, Peachley Lane, Broadheath.

Dwellings where undertakings not to re-let were accepted:-

1 Cottage, Station Road, Bransford.
Part of Jewry House, Martley.
Close Cottage, Clifton-on-Teme.

Rehousing

During the year the Council rehoused the following families from sub-standard properties subject to Orders made under the Housing Act, 1957.

The number of applicants on the Council's waiting list was 185 (235) at the end of the year.

During the year 19 (26) lettings were made as compared with 28 in 1969 and 26 in 1970.

The number of homeless families under eviction rehoused was 7 (7).

Improvement Grants

(a) Standard Grants - Total number of applicants since commencement of scheme 252 (238).

<u>Year</u>	<u>Rec'd</u>	<u>Applications</u>		<u>Grants Paid</u>	<u>Amount Paid</u>	<u>Number of Houses</u>	
		<u>Appr'd</u>	<u>Refused</u>			<u>Tenanted</u>	<u>Owner/ Occupied</u>
1970	20	20	Nil	17	£4,657	Nil	17
1971	14	14	Nil	12	£2,588	3	9

Amenities provided - 1971

Fixed bath or shower	9 (15)
Wash hand basin	9 (16)
Hot and cold water supplies	9 (17)
Water closets	12 (16)
Sinks	6 (10)
Septic tanks	6 (13)
Mains water supplies	2 (1)
Bathrooms added	2 (7)

(b) Discretionary Grants - Total number of applicants since commencement of scheme 551 (501). The total number of houses involved in 1971 was 59.

<u>Year</u>	<u>Rec'd</u>	<u>Applications</u>		<u>Grants Paid</u>	<u>Amount Paid</u>	<u>Number of Houses</u>	
		<u>Appr'd</u>	<u>Refused</u>			<u>Tenanted</u>	<u>Owner/ Occupied</u>
1970	35	31	4	24	£12,315	1	23
1971	59	59	Nil	21	£16,406	5	16

At the end of the year, work was in progress on 22 (25) Standard Grants and 5 (47) Discretionary Grants.

The number of applications for improvement grants have increased greatly during the past two years and Mr. Perry has spent much time in dealing with this aspect of the environmental health work.

During the year the Department of the Environment issued a circular recommending that Public Health Inspectors should be responsible for this work. It is of vital importance that in every case where compliance with the twelve-point standard and the thirty year life can be met, that these conditions should be adhered to.

It is not excessive to require that an improved house should be fit for habitation within the terms of Section 4 of the Housing Act 1957 (as amended), a standard which has, for many years, been considered low.

The approach to improvement grants in the department has undergone revision since the implementation of the Housing Act 1969 and standards have been raised.

In addition to improvements in the field of private housing, the Council is pursuing a policy of modernisation of its housing stock. During the year a further 15 (10) houses were improved bringing the total to 161 (146). A further 115 (130) houses and bungalows remained unmodernised at the end of the year.

Housing Management

During the year it was decided to amalgamate the Housing Management function of the Council within the Public Health Department. The main reasons for this were:-

- (1) The increasing inter-relationship of the Public Health and Management function in dealing with unfit housing and house lettings.
- (2) The close involvement of the Public Health Department in allocating housing points.
- (3) Generally improved intelligence concerning housing matters.
- (4) The public would have only to deal with one department, a fact resulting in improved service.

The conclusion drawn from modern trends is that it is unrealistic to divorce housing from environmental health. The action which, for many years, has been taken by Public Health Inspectors in the private housing sector includes management, slum clearance, improvement, repair, control of caravans, and overcrowding as well as control of noise, atmospheric pollution, private drainage and purity of water supplies etc. The arrangement which this Council has fostered is, I believe, proving to be a satisfactory way of providing an important public service.

General Comment

In September of 1970 a housing survey was commenced to assess the extent of disrepair and unfitness in the private sector housing. From the information so far obtained it seems that there are approximately 300 unfit houses in the district. An active policy of demolition and re-housing has been started to deal with the larger numbers involved, and the Council is pursuing a scheme of house building to increase the publicly owned housing

stock and hopes to properly utilise those existing houses which are under-occupied. The housing survey has been successfully used as platform to publicise the improvement grant scheme available to owners of unmodernised houses, and is resulting in large numbers of enquiries.

A total of 187 houses had been surveyed during the year, of these 158 were in need of some repair, lacking one or more basic amenity or unfit. The total number of houses now surveyed is 445 and of these 95 were found to be unfit and 321 in need of repair or lacking basic amenities.

2. WATER SUPPLY

(a) Private Supplies

- (1) General - During the year no cases of shortage of drinking water were reported.

A large percentage of the houses in the district (approximately 20%) gain their water supply from shallow wells and springs, many of which are polluted. A full survey, particularly of estate water supplies, of which no details of quality were available has now been started and supply at Doddenham has been improved as a result.

- (2) Private Supplies to Council Houses - During the year the polluted water supplies to three small groups of isolated unmodernised Council bungalows were replaced by mains water.

The distance of these bungalows from the public mains has made the decision to provide mains water difficult to justify on economic grounds but the provision of mains water was considered essential. The Council has decided, in principle, to carry out full modernisation of the bungalows which are:-

- 1 - 4 Worcester Road, Holt.
- 2 Fieldbrook, Abberley.
- 1 and 2 Dick Brook, Astley.
- 1 - 4 Shelsley Walsh.

The only property not yet connected to a mains water supply is No. 2 Fieldbrook, Abberley, and plans for this are in hand. The water, in the meantime, is regularly sampled to assess its quality and the occupiers affected have been advised in methods to be adopted and its purification and use.

(3) Details of Samplings and Connections -

Number of Samples taken from private sources	- 47 (33)
Number found to be satisfactory	- 21 (8)
Number found to be unsatisfactory	- 26 (25)

Where necessary owners and occupiers were notified of methods for purification and use.

Eleven properties were connected to the public water supply by the Council and five following informal action by the Public Health Department.

(b) Mains Water

The statutory undertakers for the public supply of water throughout the district are the North West Worcestershire Water Board.

Details of the chemical quality of the mains water are contained in the report of the Medical Officer of Health.

Frequent water samples are taken by the Water Board from a small number of sampling points in the area. Copies of the analyst's reports are sent to the Public Health Department and 45 (40) samples were taken during the year.

Last year I drew attention to the method of sampling adopted by the Water Board which would, I feel, be more representative if water were drawn from a larger number of points on the mains system.

3. SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

Details of recently completed sewerage schemes are contained in the report of the Medical Officer of Health.

(a) Existing arrangements - The following areas are served by public sewers and treatment plants and are known as "village schemes".

<u>Parish</u>	<u>Area Served</u>
Abberley	The Common
Astley	Little Heath, Ridleys Cross, part of the Burf, Sandhampton, and the Town.
Bransford and Leigh Sinton	The Village.
Broadheath	part of the Common and part of the Village
Clifton-on-Teme	The Village
Hallow	The Village
Grimley	Sinton Green
Martley	Jury Lane and Part of the Village
Rushwick	The Village
Shelsley Beauchamp	part of the Village
Great Witley	part of the Village

The following larger Council Housing Sites have sewers and treatment plants to which are connected some privately owned properties:-

Abberley	Suffolk Lane
Alfrick	Clay Green
Cotheridge	Church Lane
Holt	The Heath
Suckley	Airey Houses
Wichenford	Queens Estate

The following larger sites have sewers and treatment plants serving Council Houses only:-

Martley	Prickley Lane
Lower Sapey	Pitchards Close
Little Witley	Well Lane
Knightwick	Highfields

(b) Future Arrangements

- (i) Broadheath extension - work should be completed in 1972.
- (ii) Clifton-on-Teme - The preparation of this scheme continued and work will commence early in 1972.
- (iii) Martley - Following a local investigation by an engineering inspector of the Ministry of Housing and Local Government, approval was given for the commencement of the scheme which is scheduled for 1972.
- (iv) Broadwas and Cotheridge - Negotiations were made with Worcester City for pumping sewage through the Broadheath works. No further progress was made.
- (v) Other Schemes -
 - (a) A small scheme for part of Holt Heath is due to be started at the beginning of 1972.
 - (b) The present policy of allocation of finances for small sewerage schemes has failed to provide for the urgently needed sewerage of Shrawley and Grimley Villages, schemes for which have already been approved. The urgency of the need for these schemes cannot be overemphasised.
 - (c) Various small schemes involving modernisation of Council houses were in the course of preparation.
 - (d) Amongst areas in desperate need of sewerage, the Longley Green area of Suckley is a priority.

(c) Work Completed During the Year

The only scheme completed during the year was the provision of an extended aeration plant to serve the Council Bungalows at Highfields, Knightwick.

(d) House Drainage

The following new drainage installations were approved and installed during the year:-

	<u>New Houses</u>	<u>Existing Houses</u>	<u>Total</u>
Septic tanks	16 (22)	26 (39)	42 (61)
Connections to public sewers	35 (31)	16 (4)	51 (35)
Connections to private treatment plants	<u>3 (Nil)</u>	<u>Nil (Nil)</u>	<u>3 (Nil)</u>
	<u>54 (53)</u>	<u>42 (43)</u>	<u>96 (96)</u>

The Council does not own a mechanical cesspool emptier and during the year discontinued arrangements with Stourport U.D.C. and Droitwich R.D.C. for the emptying of privately owned plants. The cost of emptying private septic tanks had been previously re-charged to the owners in full, together with an administration charge.

Private tanks were emptied by direct negotiation between the owners and a firm of contractors operating in the district.

There is a pressing need for the provision of a Council operated service to ensure regular emptying of Council and private septic tanks. All septic tanks should be emptied at least annually and in this district, of clay soil and ineffective effluent soakaways there is a large number of malfunction tanks causing widespread pollution of roadside ditches and watercourses. The standard design of septic tank approved for use in this area has often proved to be inadequate and unsuitable. The Council will provide in the near future, a service which it is hoped will be sufficiently inexpensive to encourage owners to call for regular emptying and thus reduce the hazards to public health. A nominal charge of £2 will be made for one emptying annually and economic charges are to be made for additional emptyings, and of properties using septic tanks which are within reach of a main sewer.

4. FOOD AND DRUGS ADMINISTRATION

(a) General

Last year it was reported that of the thirty-five food premises (canteens, butchers shops, general stores, licensed premises and restaurants) visited between July and December, only two complied with the requirements of the Food Hygiene Regulations 1960 in full. A total of 80 visits were involved. This year eighty-three premises were visited and by the end of December, 34 complied with the Food Hygiene (General) Regulations 1970 and 173 visits were involved. The standards of some premises were again found to be low but it has been very encouraging to gain, in almost every instance, the willing co-operation of proprietors and much progress has been made.

The hygienic and quality control measures of modern food storage, preparation and distribution involve technicalities of which the lay man is unaware and there is an urgent need for training of food handlers in basic hygiene and management. This is most important in the catering industry, which draws its staff often from homes without modern amenities, such as wash hand basins or hot water. The progress in improved standards and facilities continues to be encouraging. Over a thousand contrventions have been notified to owners and more than four hundred had been remedied by the end of the year with work continuing on the remainder. I estimate that the total cost of work is in the region of forty thousand pounds.

(b) Education

The proprietor of each food business operating in the district was circulated with an explanation of the Food Hygiene (General) Regulations 1970; information concerning bacterial control and food poisoning; a code of guidance for hygienic practice and for care of certain foods such as cooked meats. This information was well received and proved of considerable benefit as a preliminary to the visit and inspection of the premises.

(c) Food Poisoning

The danger of salmonella food poisoning from Poultry, which is a national problem, was highlighted by an outbreak at a very high class establishment. Of a party of eighty-four people, twenty-seven were taken ill after eating a similar meal. All members of the staff submitted faecal specimens which proved negative. Salmonella organisms were found in turkey meat and in the faeces of some of the people who were taken ill. The turkeys were traced

to a Poultry dressing factory and the Marketing Company was requested to give full and clear instructions on the wrappings for the thawing of frozen birds, and this request was complied with. The dangers with frozen Poultry lie in the fact that full cooking, which kills the bacteria causing food poisoning will not take place unless the deepest areas of the meat are fully thawed out.

(d) School Canteens

The standard of school canteens operated by the Worcestershire County Council is again worthy of comment. In general the kitchens and food preparation and storage rooms are well equipped with the highest order and the calibre of staff employed in kitchen work is high.

(e) Number and Types of Food Premises Operated in the District:-

Licensed premises	40
Butchers Shops	4
Day and Residential Schools	27
Social Clubs and Halls	21
Cafes	3
Grocers and Other Food Shops	54
Bake Houses	1
Ice Cream Manufacturers	Nil
Ice Cream Retailers	75

(f) Slaughterhouses

There are no licensed slaughterhouses presently operating within the district.

(g) Poultry Inspection

A number of small establishments where poultry are slaughtered are operated within the district. It was not possible due to pressure of other work, to carry out systematic inspections during the year.

(h) Milk

Licensing and sampling powers under the Milk (Special Designation) Regulations 1960, are operated by the Worcestershire County Council. Frequent samples of milk are taken by the County Public Health Inspector. The number and results of samples taken in 1971 are as follows:-

Pasteurised Milk	-	30	(27)
Sterilised Milk	-	1	(Nil)
Untreated Milk	-	6	(4)
Total	-	37	(31)

one sample failed the phosphatase test for pasteurised milk.

During the year 6 samples of raw milk were examined for Brucella Abortus. None of the samples proved positive.

(i) Food Sampling

The responsibilities for formal sampling and analysis are undertaken by the Worcestershire County Council.

5. PUBLIC CLEANSING

This service is administered by the Councils' Engineer and Surveyor.

(a) Refuse Collection

As reported last year again no further extensions took place in the weekly collection and paper sack system.

(b) Refuse Disposal

Three refuse tips are in use, those at Martley and Yarhampton being disused quarries and at Grimley in a disused gravel working.

Fewer complaints of fly nuisance were received concerning the tip at Martley. It is essential that an alternative tipping site should be established as soon as possible. The Martley tip was reported last year to have exceeded its capacity and additional refuse presents the possibility of a serious fire hazard by its close proximity to the wooded area of Martley Hillside. The County Council must agree to allow the use of other land for tipping. This position and ease of control of the disused railway cutting at Knightwick, make it eminently suitable. It seems ridiculous that this site may not be released because of the tenuous possibility that it could form part of a nature walk.

6. MISCELLANEOUS

(a) Mortuary, Red House, Martley.

The accommodation was used five times during the year.

(b) Caravan Sites

2 site licences were issued for residential caravans on individual sites during the year.

The number of sites and caravans now licensed is as follows:-

		<u>No. of Sites</u>	<u>No. of Caravans</u>
Residential Caravans	-	63 (61)	85 (80)
Holiday Caravans	-	17 (17)	223 (223)
		<u>80 (78)</u>	<u>308 (303)</u>

In addition there are approximately twenty-five unauthorised sites.

(c) Hop Pickers Accommodation

Inspections were carried out on temporary accommodation used by Hop Pickers. The number of persons accommodated in barracks falls annually as less workers are required, due to increased mechanisation.

The general condition of accommodation visited was found satisfactory in respect of hygiene and fire prevention.

(d) Rodent Control

During the year Mr. L. Parry, the pest control officer retired and it was decided that the farm contract scheme for rodent control should be terminated. Only 88 contracts had been secured in 1970 and the number was decreasing annually. Between April and his retirement in July, Mr. Parry, in addition to his other work, undertook twenty farm contracts with a total revenue of about £60.

The time was considered opportune for an appraisal of the rodent control service. It was decided that Mr. Parry would not be replaced and that a contract should be taken out with a company specialising in pest control. The contract, for a trial period of one year, was started in August and has proved to be both eminently successful and comparatively economical (£700 instead of approximately £1,300 in wages, travelling allowances and materials.)

The service now provided is based on complaints being received by Miss Underhill, who maintains records and issues the instruction to the contractors. The contractors work in close liason with Mr. Perry and myself and consult on difficult cases.

In addition to an agreed 200 rodent treatments at domestic dwellings, the service provides for full control of cockroaches, wasps, hornets, fleas, and bed bugs. Also for twice weekly fly control at Martley refuse tip and for fly control at Yarhampton, during the summer months. Rodent control is also provided at Council sewage works and refuse tips.

The service provides a twenty-four hour cover and does not cease, as previously, during the operatives holiday period.

Treatments carried out during the year:-

<u>Type of Premises</u>	<u>Treatments</u>	<u>Visits</u>
Agricultural premises	20 (681)	74 (780)

This information is taken from records kept by the Rodent Control Officer.

(e) Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act 1965

Registrations and general inspections:-

Class of Premises	No. of premises newly registered during the year	Total Number of registered premises at the end of year	No. of premises receiving general inspection during the year
Offices	1 (Nil)	14 (13)	4 (4)
Retail Shops	1 (1)	14 (13)	8 (5)
Wholesale Shops	Nil (Nil)	Nil (Nil)	Nil (Nil)
Catering Establishments	Nil (Nil)	16 (13)	27 (10)
Fuel Storage Depots	Nil (Nil)	Nil (Nil)	Nil (Nil)
TOTALS	2 (1)	41 (39)	39 (19)

Number of visits to all kinds of registered premises = 39 (19)

Analysis by workplace of persons employed in registered premises

<u>Class of Workplace</u>	<u>Number of Persons Employed</u>	
Offices	38	(36)
Retail Shops	19	(19)
Wholesale Departments, Warehouses	Nil	(Nil)
Catering Establishments	46	(46)
Canteens	Nil	(Nil)
Fuel Storage Depots	Nil	(Nil)
	<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>103 (101)</u>

Total Males 36 (36) - Total Females 67 (65)

The number of premises registered is considered to be about half of the total premises which should be registered. It is hoped that more time will be available for work under the Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act during 1972.

PART I OF THE ACT

1. INSPECTIONS during 1971 for purposes of provision as to health
(Figures in brackets relate to 1970)

Premises (1)	Number on Register (2)	Number of		
		Inspections (3)	Written Notices (4)	Occupiers Prosecuted (5)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	5 (5)	2 (1)	-	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	35 (38)	16 (4)	-	-
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers premises)	-	-	-	-
Total	40 (43)	18 (5)	-	-

2. Cases in which DEFECTS were found

Particulars (1)	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in wh prosecutio were insti (6)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred		
			To HM Inspector (4)	To HM Inspector (5)	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	2	2	-	-	-
Overcrowding (S.2)	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient	3	-	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	4	4	-	-	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relat- ing to Outwork)	-	-	-	-	-
Total	9 (2)	6 (2)	-	-	-

PART VIII OF THE ACT - OUTWORK

Nil return

